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GENERAL

1. UK postponing recognition of Bao Dai--US Embassy
Colombo reports that, as a result of the French failure to ratify the 8 March Agreements transferring limited authority to the Bao Dai Government of Vietnam, the UK has been unable to persuade other Commonwealth countries to recognize Bao Dai. Following discussion during the Colombo Conference on the problem of recognizing Vietnam, British Foreign Secretary Bevin has expressed the opinion that the attitude of other Commonwealth countries now makes it impossible for the UK to extend "de facto" recognition to Bao Dai until the French ratify the 8 March Agreements and indicate plans for implementing them. Bevin believes that UK recognition of Bao Dai without such French action would bring about open opposition from the Commonwealth countries.

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State Dept. review completed

Document No. 11
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
☐ DECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)
DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763
Date: 16 MAR 1978 By:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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